

REMARKS

Minor editorial corrections have been made to the specification and Abstract. Claims 1 - 2, 7 - 8, 10 - 13, 18 - 19, 21 - 24, 29 - 30, 32 - 35, and 40 - 41 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced with these corrections or amendments, all of which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Claims 1 - 44 remain in the application.

I. Drawing Correction

As explained above in "Amendments to the Drawings", a proposed replacement drawing is submitted herewith for Fig. 4B. As originally submitted, the values in the "nodes" (i.e., the letters within ellipses) were incorrect, and did not align with Fig. 4A. Accordingly, the node values "B", "C", and "D" have been rearranged. No new matter has been introduced with these corrections.

II. Objection to the Specification

Paragraphs 3 - 6 of the Office Action dated April 7, 2004 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") discuss objections to the specification (including length of the Abstract, words used within the Abstract, and use of addresses in the specification that have been construed as embedded hyperlinks). Appropriate amendments have been made herein, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw these objections.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Office Action states that Claims 1 - 9 and 43, and Claims 21 - 31, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. These

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rejections are respectfully traversed.

Paragraph 8 of the Office Action further states that Claims 1 - 9 and 43 specify "functional descriptive data stored on computer-readable media", and "set forth mere arrangements and/or compilations of data on computer-readable media". Applicants note that MPEP §2106(a), which is titled "Functional Descriptive Material: "Data Structures" Representing Descriptive Material *Per Se* or Computer Programs Representing Computer Listings *Per Se*", states as the final sentence of its first paragraph,

... In contrast, a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a data structure defines structural and functional interrelationships between the data structure and the computer software and hardware components which permit the data structure's functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory. (emphasis added)

The preambles of Applicants' independent Claims 1 and 43 specify a "document" that resides on computer-readable media. As will be obvious, this document is a type of data structure. Accordingly, Applicants believe that these claims fully align to the above-cited language of the MPEP and are therefore statutory. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the §101 rejection of Claims 1 - 9 and 43.

Paragraph 9 of the Office Action further states that Claims 21 - 31 specify functional descriptive data, and because they are means plus function claims, are "considered software per se in light of the specification", referencing p. 16, lines 14 - 17 of Applicants' specification. Applicants respectfully note that p. 15, lines 8 - 15 describe various embodiments of software

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programming code which embodies their invention, including diskettes, hard drives, CD-ROMs, memory, and so forth. The preamble of independent Claim 21 specifies a system.

When describing patentable subject matter, 35 U.S.C. §101 states that

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Applicants respectfully submit that their independent Claim 21 falls squarely within this definition, and is therefore directed toward statutory subject matter.

Furthermore, 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraph 6 states:

An element in a claim for a combination may be expressed as a means or step for performing a specified function without the recital of structure, material, or acts in support thereof, and such claim shall be construed to cover the corresponding structure, material, or acts described in the specification and equivalents thereof.

Applicants respectfully submit that the language of their independent Claim 21, and its dependent Claims 22 - 31, conforms to this statutory language. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this §101 rejection of Claims 21 - 31.

IV. Claim Objections

Paragraph 10 of the Office Action states that Claims 1 - 44 are objected to because of informalities, and in particular, use of parenthetical expressions. The parenthetical expressions

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"(attribute name, attribute value)" were intended to describe the members the attribute pair references. Alternative terminology has been provided in the amendments submitted herein. Parentheticals remain only where abbreviations are being defined for subsequent short-hand reference within the claim language. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this objection.

V. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Paragraph 12 of the Office Action states that Claims 4, 7, 15 - 18, 26 - 29, and 37 - 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Paragraph 12 further states that incorrect claim dependencies and unclear antecedent references exist in these claims.

Rather than incorrect claim dependency in Claims 7, 18, 20, and 40, an extraneous phrase ("starting name position and") exists in these claims as originally filed. Applicants thank the Examiner for noting this problem. Appropriate correction has been made herein. Furthermore, Claims 18, 29, and 40 have been amended herein to refer to the "output" document, rather than simply the document, thus providing a proper antecedent reference in the final line of these claims.

In view of these corrections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

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VI. Allowable Subject Matter

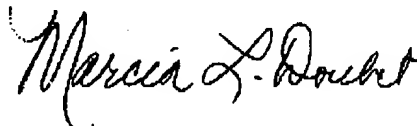
Paragraph 14 of the Office Action states that Claims 10 - 14, 19 - 20, 32 - 36, 41 - 42, and 44 are allowed. Paragraph 15 states that Claims 15 - 18 and 37 - 40 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the §112 rejection noted above and to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As discussed herein, Applicants respectfully submit that their Claims 1 - 9, 21 - 31, and 43 are directed toward statutory subject matter; the informalities in Claims 7, 18, 29, and 40 have been corrected; and the antecedent basis problem is limited to Claims 18, 29, and 40 (rather than Claims 15 - 16, 26 - 27, and 37 - 38). Accordingly, all Claims 1 - 44 are deemed patentable as presented herein.

VII. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejected claims, withdrawal of all presently outstanding objections and rejections, and allowance of all claims at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Replacement Sheet (1)

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